

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PINR EAIR ACOM GH AO

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH GEN OKAI ON RANGE OF SUBJECTS

1. I MET MAJ GEN LAWRENCE OKAI AT HIS BURMA CAMP HEADQUARTERS
NOV 19. WE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS AS FOLLOWS.

2. CIVIL AVIATION: I BRIEFED OKAI ON THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON
(GHANA EMBASSY HAS NOT YET REPORTED TO GOG) SAYING THAT THEY
WENT WELL IN GENERAL AND STRESSING THE THREE POINTS REMAINING
AT ISSUE. OKAI SAID HE WAS ALSO PLEASED AND THT HE WOULD TALK
WITH THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSIONER ABOUT THE POINTS AND WAS
SURE THAT THEY COULD BE WORKED OUT. I NOTED THAT AMONG THE
POINTS THE ONE CONCERNING THE PAST AND FUTURE TAX LIABILITY
OF PAN AMERICAN WAS THE MOST CRITICAL AND WAS ESSENTIAL TO
A FINAL AGREEMENT.

3. WATTS: OKAI SAID THAT HE HAD READ THE REPORT I SENT TO
HIM CONCERNING WATTS AND RECOMMENDS THAT WE RESUBMIT THE
PROPOSAL SOMETIME IN JANUARY. HE SAID QUOTE THE NEW CHAPS IN
THE SMC ARE A MORE SENSIBLE LOT. I BELIEVE THEY WILL UNDERSTAND
THE PROPOSAL. UNQUOTE. I SHOULD ADD THAT OKAI EARLIER HAD
SAID TO A MEMBER OF MY STAFF THAT IF GHANA GETS THE BILATERAL
AVIATION AGREEMENT, THE UNITED STATES WILL GET WATTS.

4. COCOA AGREEMENT: OKAI ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGE IN OUR
POSITION ON SIGNING THE COCOA AGREEMENT. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD
TALKED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS ABOUT THIS DURING MY LAST VISIT TO
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WASHINGTON. I SAID THAT WHILE I WAS HOPEFUL, IT MIGHT NOT BE

POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH RIGHT AWAY ALL THAT GHANA WISHES US TO DO.

5. ANGOLA: OKAI DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA AS QUOTE A TERRIBLE MESS UNQUOTE. HE COMMENTED ON IDI AMIN WHO ONCE SUPPORTED THE MPLA BUT CHANGED HIS STANCE WHEN INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITY WAS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION. OKAI ADDED THAT HE PLANNED TO GO AGAIN TO KAMPALA (HE IS TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY GROUP). OKAI NOTED THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE U.S. AND ZAIRE EMBASSIES ON NOV 14. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THE DEMONSTRATORS WOULD GO TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY AS WELL AND I TOLD HIM THAT THEY DID NOT DO SO. HE SAID HE INTENDED TO CALL IN THE LEADER OF THE SMAU AND WILL ASK WHY THEY DID NOT QUOTE KEEP THEIR WORD UNQUOTE AND GO TO THE SOVIETS; OKAI SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE IMPENDING DEMONSTRATION, AS WE WERE NOT.

6. ATTITUDE TO U.S.: OKAI SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED IF I OR MEMBERS OF MY STAFF APPEAR TO BE CUT SHORT OR SNUBBED BY COMMISSIONERS. THERE IS CONCERN IN SOME QUARTERS THAT SOME OF THE SMC/NRC GROUP QUOTE LEAN TOO MUCH TOWARD AMERICA UNQUOTE. THIS HAD CAUSED HIM TO CANCEL HIS PLANS TO VISIT THE STATES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. HE DDED THT I SHOULD ALSO NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY PRESS COMMENTS HERE ON THE CIA; THESE, HE SAID, WERE ONLY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. I SAID THAT WHILE THIS MAY BE TRUE, STUDENTS AND OTHERS READ THE NEWSPAPERS AND MIGHT TAKE VIOLENT ACTION. HE SEEMED TO SENSE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM.

7. COMMENT: OKAI IS OF THE HIGHEST INFLUENCE IN THE SMC AND HIS COMMENTS SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY. THE SESSION GIVES EVEN HIGHER IMPORTANCE TO THE CONCLUSION OF AN AIR AGREEMENT AND TO OUR BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON COCOA.
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